

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# **Selected Speeches and News Releases**

**July 12 - July 19, 1990**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

### **News Releases—**

U.S. Donates Sorghum to Mexico

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price for Upland Cotton

USDA Sets Dates for National Hearing on Federal Milk Marketing Orders

Mite-Resistant Bees Coming to U.S. from English Monk's Bee Yard

Scientists Ready and Waiting for Southwest's Monsoon Season

USDA Reminds Producers of Available Drought Assistance

Sixty-Two Charged in Texas With Food Stamp Fraud and Drug Violations

Hot Weather Shifts Wheat's Protein Mix, Lowers Breadmaking Quality

USDA to Hold Meeting on Veterinary Biologics

FGIS Approves New Research Projects

USDA Extends Comment Period on Possible Regulations for "Refrigerated" Meat and Poultry Products

USDA to Revise Imported Pork Assessment Identification Numbers

Federal Task Force on Spotted Owl to Meet With Northwest Regional Leaders

Hong Kong Eligible for More Table Eggs Under Export Enhancement Program

This Week's Honey-Loan Repayment Levels Unchanged



# News Releases

---

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

---

## U.S. DONATES SORGHUM TO MEXICO

WASHINGTON, July 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 95,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum to Mexico, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$8.1-million donation will be sold to the Mexican public and private sectors. The proceeds will be used to provide food assistance to the needy and fund nutrition and health education programs. The programs will reach as many as 4.9 million participants in food-for-work and maternal-child health projects and contribute toward lowering infant mortality rates in low income families. The supply period is fiscal year 1990.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The program is carried out by the U.S. Agency for International Development, acting as the agent of USDA's CCC.

For further information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 382-9263.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, July 12—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 13, through midnight Thursday, July 19.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively,

the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending July 12, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Adjusted World Price                     |                 |
| Northern Europe Price .....              | 82.53           |
| Adjustments:                             |                 |
| Average U.S. spot market location .....  | 13.38           |
| SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....             | 2.20            |
| Average U.S. location .....              | 0.39            |
| Sum of Adjustments .....                 | <u>-15.97</u>   |
| ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....               | 66.56 cents/lb. |
| Coarse Count Adjustment                  |                 |
| Northern Europe Price .....              | 82.53           |
| Northern Europe Coarse Count Price ..... | <u>-84.10</u>   |
|  | 1.57            |
| Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....    | <u>-4.75</u>    |
|  | -6.32           |
| COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....            | 0 cents/lb.     |

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, July 19.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#



## USDA SETS DATES FOR NATIONAL HEARING ON FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDERS

WASHINGTON, July 12—Dairy farmers, milk dealers, consumers, and other interested parties may testify at an extended hearing between Sept. 5 and Oct. 15 on proposed changes to pricing provisions in all federal milk marketing orders, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

John E. Frydenlund, deputy assistant secretary for marketing and inspection services, said the hearing, which will focus on issues that are national in scope, will be held in six cities: Eau Claire, Wis.; Minneapolis, Minn.; St. Cloud, Minn.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Tallahassee, Fla.; and Irving, Texas.

USDA set the hearing dates after reviewing extensive comments received following its announcement March 29 inviting public comments and proposals for the agenda of such a hearing. Over 130 proposals arrived by the May 31 deadline, Frydenlund said.

On the hearing agenda are proposals for establishing prices for Class I (drinking) milk and Class II milk (milk used to make “soft” products like cottage cheese, yogurt and ice cream); for establishing a uniform system of classifying milk by its uses; and for changing regulations on reconstituted milk, i.e., milk from which water has been removed in one of several ways, and to which water is added later.

Proposals on Class I pricing range from eliminating any regional price variations to increasing them to cover the full cost of transporting fluid milk from Wisconsin to other areas. A major Midwest coalition of producer groups proposes to price Class I milk partly on the basis of a single national “pool” price, adjusted to reflect local supply and demand conditions. Other proposals would establish several Class I pricing points in the country, adjusting prices at the other locations to reflect transportation costs from those points.

Proposals on reconstituted milk range from eliminating reconstituted nonfat dried milk from regulation under the orders, to classifying and pricing as whole milk bulk “reverse osmosis” reconstituted milk, i.e., milk concentrated by removing water through a porous membrane.

Recent studies by the government’s General Accounting Office and USDA’s Economic Research Service recommended a comprehensive review of federal milk marketing order pricing provisions through a national hearing process.

After reviewing the testimony this fall, USDA will consider recommending changes in the federal milk order program, Frydenlund said.

Notice of the hearing will appear in the July 17 Federal Register. Copies and additional information are available from any milk market administrator's office, or from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-6273.

*Chart on next page*



The hearing schedule is as follows:

|                                     |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Sept. 5 and 6                       | 9 a.m.                                  | Ray Wachs Civic Center<br>210 South Farwell St.<br>Eau Claire, Wisc. 54702-5148<br>Telephone (715) 839-6014                              |
| Sept. 7                             | time to be<br>set at Sept. 6<br>session | Holiday Inn of Eau Claire<br>1202 West Clairemont Ave.<br>Eau Claire, Wisc. 54702<br>Telephone (715) 834-3181                            |
| Sept. 10-19                         | 1 p.m.                                  | Lutheran Brotherhood Building<br>First Floor Auditorium<br>625 Fourth Ave. South<br>Minneapolis, Minn. 55415<br>Telephone (612) 340-8578 |
| Sept. 20                            | 9 a.m.                                  | St. Cloud Civic Center<br>10 4th Ave. South<br>St. Cloud, Minn. 56301<br>Telephone (612) 255-7272  |
| Oct. 1-5                            | 1 p.m.                                  | Genesee Inn Executive Quarters<br>1060 East Genesee St.<br>Syracuse, N.Y. 13203<br>Telephones (315) 476-4212,<br>(800) 365-4663          |
| Oct. 10-12                          | 9 a.m.                                  | Holiday Inn-University Center<br>316 West Tennessee St.<br>Tallahassee, Fla. 32301<br>Telephone (904) 222-8000                           |
| Oct. 15 to<br>close of<br>testimony | 1 p.m.                                  | Holiday Inn Holidome<br>DFW Airport South<br>4440 West Airport Freeway<br>Irving, Texas 75061<br>Telephone (214) 399-1010                |

There will be no hearings on weekends.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

## MITE-RESISTANT BEES COMING TO U.S. FROM ENGLISH MONK'S BEE YARD

WASHINGTON, July 13—Today at an abbey in Buckfastleigh, England, a 90-year-old monk named Brother Adam will give a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist a package that could one day mean thousands of dollars to beekeepers.

Ralph A. Bram, a national staff specialist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service, will bring to the United States 15 queen honeybees from a strain that Brother Adam has spent years selecting for resistance to the devastating tracheal mite.

This parasitic mite clogs bees' breathing tubes, killing 80 percent or more of a hive and sapping thousands of dollars per year from beekeepers' pockets, said Bram, who is based in Beltsville, Md.

He said scientists at the agency's Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory in Baton Rouge, La., will crossbreed the queens' offspring with other bees with mite resistance. "Our goal is a bee that won't succumb to mite attack," Bram said. The work will take two to three years.

Once they've incorporated resistance into a commercially productive bee, the scientists will distribute queens to the bee breeder, Bram said. Breeders can incorporate resistance into their bees for sale to beekeepers.

Brother Adam has written reports that his bees withstand mite attack even "when in identical environments other races and crosses collapsed mid-season." He reports that all of his hive-members survive mite attack, compared to the 20 percent or less of non-resistant bees.

When Bram arrives tomorrow in Baltimore, Sandy Kleinpeter from the Bee Lab in Baton Rouge will meet him to pick up the queens and fly them to Grand Terre Island, off the Louisiana coast.

The bees will remain there in quarantine for six months until scientists are sure they carry no disease. Then, they will bring the bees back to their lab on the mainland and begin breeding studies.

Brother Adam has been a resident of the abbey since 1910 and began keeping bees at age sixteen.

Jessica Morrison Silva (301) 344-3927

#

## SCIENTISTS READY AND WAITING FOR SOUTHWEST'S MONSOON SEASON

WASHINGTON, July 16—Tombstone Territory may be hot and dry and still right now, but just wait. The monsoons are coming.

Late July to mid-August is the peak of the heavy-rain season for the Southwest, and this year it's also the time for "Monsoon 90" in the Walnut Gulch Basin surrounding Tombstone, Ariz.

"What we're after is a complete picture of the hydrologic cycle of the basin during the monsoons," says Monsoon 90's lead scientist, hydrologist William P. Kustas of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "We want to know what happens to every raindrop, at least in theory, every step of the way."

Kustas says, "We'll be developing a huge data bank and scientists from all over the world will be drawing from it for years to come."

Kustas and 23 other scientists from USDA, other federal agencies, federally affiliated laboratories and four universities will be at Walnut Gulch. They will record data, in detail, from the ground, three satellites and three planes.

"If everything goes as planned," says Kustas of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, "our findings could further establish the potential of aerospace remote sensing as a tool for water management—especially in semiarid regions of the country. In these regions, water supplies and their replenishment by monsoons are critical issues."

Aerospace remote sensing equipment is used to measure heat, light and microwaves that are reflected or emitted from soil, water and plants, Kustas says. Such data then are compared to findings on the ground.

"We believe the right combination of satellite readings from soils and plants on the surface can produce reliable estimates of the amount of water below," he said. After each storm, scientists at the Arizona test area will measure rainfall, runoff, water movement into and through the soil, soil moisture levels, water uptake by plants, evaporation from plants and other factors vital to tracking what happens to the rainwater.

Kustas says "the data we get from any one experiment may affect all the others. Everything fits together."

At Walnut Gulch, radio communications between scientists, living accommodations and safety are also things that the project leader has to consider.



“We don’t want anybody getting caught in a flash flood or left in the open during a thunderstorm,” he says, adding that lightning in the area can be quite frequent.

Kustas emphasizes that answers about the fate of rainwater on semiarid lands aren’t likely to be forthcoming in the immediate future.

“Some results may wind up in scientific journals within a year or so, but we’ll be seeing significant studies based on Monsoon 90 data well into the next century,” he says.

Kustas is now back at his base, the ARS Hydrology Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., after two weeks in and around Tombstone making final preparations for Monsoon 90. He returns for the main event later this month to coordinate the experiments of all scientists working on the project.

In addition to colleagues from ARS, the list includes researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Los Alamos National Laboratories, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, University of Arizona, Utah State University, University of Maryland and the University of Tasmania in Australia.

Steve Miller (301) 344-3520

#

## **USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF AVAILABLE DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**

WASHINGTON, July 13—Keith Bjerke, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, today reminded producers in drought-stricken areas of provisions in programs administered by ASCS that may provide some relief.

“It appears that producers may not be taking advantage of significant forage harvesting opportunities permitted under current regulations,” Bjerke said. “Producers who believe their grain harvest to be minimal may, before the disposition date—the date on which the crop must be destroyed—designate that acreage as Conservation Use for payment acreage (i.e., designate that it be entered in the 0/92 program). If this is done, small grains may be hayed and grazed to obtain needed forage for livestock, the base acreage will be protected and producers will be able to receive guaranteed deficiency payments on up to 92 percent of the crop’s permitted acreage. Thus, this option may be very attractive to producers

facing feed shortages. Producers have the option and may desire to file for failed acreage credit before designating the acreage as Conservation Use for payment acreage. Producers should contact their county ASCS office for further details on this provision.”

Bjerke emphasized that the 0/92 program, in addition to the crop forage that may be harvested in disaster counties, provides a significant disaster safety net over and above whatever private or Federal Crop Insurance indemnities producers may be due.

“There have been requests for further liberalization of CRP haying and grazing rules,” Bjerke said, “but these requests have been rejected for various reasons.”

Bjerke cited the grounds for rejection:

—Several livestock feed programs have already been activated in disaster counties and these programs are the appropriate means to combat livestock forage emergencies. These programs include limited haying and grazing of Acreage Conservation Reserve and CU acreage, the Emergency Feed Program, and the Emergency Feed Assistance Program.

—Since the inception of the CRP five years ago, haying and grazing of CRP acres has been approved in three separate years. The purpose of the CRP is primarily to conserve soil and water resources. CRP is not to be viewed as a forage reserve unless a national emergency occurs due to natural disasters that deplete total supplies of hay available on the market. Such widespread disasters occurred in 1988 and 1989 and justified such use.

“We will always be as responsive as possible to the problems of producers who are suffering from natural disasters,” Bjerke said.

“However, producers must first make full use of program provisions already in place before we can consider further measures.”

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

#



## SIXTY-TWO CHARGED IN TEXAS WITH FOOD STAMP FRAUD AND DRUG VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON, July 16—U.S. Department of Agriculture special agents, and state and county law enforcement officers from eastern Texas today began serving arrest warrants on 62 people charged with food stamp trafficking and drug-related violations, according to USDA's Deputy Inspector General Leon Snead.

A federal grand jury in Tyler, Texas, returned sealed indictments in late June charging 27 defendants with exchanging food stamps for cash or narcotics, or distribution of controlled substances. The remaining 35 defendants were charged by state authorities with drug-related or food stamp charges.

Snead said the indictments were part of "Operation Stamp Out Rock" which focused on identifying individuals and businesses who were illegally accepting food stamps in exchange for cash or narcotics. During this two-month investigation, undercover USDA agents and state law enforcement officers exchanged food stamps for cash, and quantities of crack cocaine and marijuana. The maximum penalty for unauthorized possession and acquisition of food stamps is five years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.

Operation Stamp Out Rock was a joint investigation by the Texas Rangers, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Office of Inspector General of the Texas Department of Human Services, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department, the Athens, Jacksonville and Palestine, Texas Police Departments, the Deep East Texas Narcotic Trafficking Task Force and USDA's Office of Inspector General.

"We will continue to work closely with local authorities to combat criminal elements who rob the public when they abuse this beneficial program," said Snead.

The cases are being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas, and the Anderson and Cherokee County District Attorneys.

David Dickson (202) 447-6701

#

## HOT WEATHER SHIFTS WHEAT'S PROTEIN MIX, LOWERS BREADMAKING QUALITY

WASHINGTON—When summer's heat soars, some genes in wheat stop working. They won't go back on the job until the day cools, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists have found.

As a result, the dough-making characteristics of the wheat kernels suffer, the two scientists report.

"Wheat that endures days hotter than 95 degrees F. will end up with a different ratio of key proteins in its kernels than if temperatures had been milder," John E. Bernardin, research chemist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said "The ratio of those proteins dictates the quality of the flour from wheat's kernels.

"Genetic engineering of wheat the proteins eventually may protect flour quality, said Bernardin and colleague William B. Inwood, a plant geneticist. In laboratory and greenhouse studies at Albany, Calif., the two found that production of wheat's important glutenin proteins starts to slow when the thermometer hits 95 degrees F. At 99 degrees F.—common on summer days in wheat growing states—production of these proteins stops.

But genes that control production of another group of kernel proteins, the gliadins, stay on the job until temperatures reach 113 degrees F.

"The highest quality wheats—the ones that make the stretchy, highly elastic dough characteristic of the best raised breads and rolls—have a higher ratio of glutenins to gliadins," Bernardin explained. "Hot weather works against wheat's chances of ending up with the ideal glutenin-to-gliadin ratio."

To overcome the problem, he and Inwood are building a new gene. They are splicing key, signal-like mechanisms of the heat-resistant gliadin gene onto the heat-intolerant glutenin gene.

"We're changing the glutenin gene's on-off switch," Bernardin said. "We want the gene to continue working past the 95-degree point and perhaps even until it reaches gliadin's upper limit of 113 degrees."

Bernardin and Inwood must not only get wheat cells to take up the new gene, but must also produce—from those cells—healthy, fertile plants with the gene working actively inside.

The scientists intend to patent the new gene. And they will use several techniques of modern biotechnology in their attempt to insert the gene into wheat cells.



That may take anywhere from six months to four or five years, they said, since wheat, like other cereal crops, typically resists biotechnologists' efforts to give it new genes.

Marcia Wood (415) 559-6070

Issued: July 17, 1990

#

## USDA TO HOLD MEETING ON VETERINARY BIOLOGICS

WASHINGTON, July 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold its second annual meeting Aug. 23-24 to discuss current regulatory and policy issues concerning the production and distribution of veterinary biological products.

The purpose of the yearly meeting is to present information on current program issues, provide technical information on developmental projects and provide a forum for the exchange of views between government, industry and interested persons.

Agenda items for this year's meeting include program updates, the policy of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on the final implementation of 1985 amendments to the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, antibody- containing products, conditional licenses for products with special needs, and an open discussion period.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa, on Thursday, Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Friday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Attendees may present their views on the APHIS veterinary biologics program during the open discussion portion of the meeting. Persons wishing to comment should make their intentions known when they register by indicating the subject of their remarks and the length of time they would like to speak.

Registration forms, lodging information and copies of the complete agenda may be obtained from Lorie Lykins, Veterinary Biologics Field Operations, Biotechnology, Biologics and Environmental Protection, APHIS, USDA, 223 S. Walnut Street, Ames, Iowa, 50010; telephone (515) 232-5785.

Advance registration is required. The deadline for registering is Aug. 6. The registration fee is \$17 and includes lunch on the first day.

Janna Evans (301) 436-7251

#

## FGIS APPROVES NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, July 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has approved funding of nine new external research contracts at a cost of approximately \$400,000. The projects approved by FGIS were selected from several applicants who responded to a published announcement requesting research proposals.

The nine projects approved by FGIS involve: grain insect detection using rapid biochemical methods; development of a new technology, supercritical fluid extraction, for use in the analysis of pesticide residues in grain; evaluation of commercially available equipment as prototypes for grain odor detection; a location-fixing acoustic insect detector to detect insects in grain; the testing of a computer simulation model for technical evaluation of wheat samples and economic effects of differences in wheat quality using commercial milling information; predicting wheat mixing properties and sprout damage by near-infrared reflectance; machine vision for inspection of corn and soybean kernel quality; the correlation between single kernel wheat hardness characteristics and wheat millability; and fabrication of a prototype grain odor sniffer.

"The national grain inspection and weighing system will benefit greatly from this new technology," said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz. "Improved equipment and methodology resulting from these projects will ensure that FGIS services continue to be effective, efficient, and up-to-date."

For further information, contact Donald E. Koeltzow, (816) 374-6510.

Dana Blatt (202) 382-0378

#



## USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON POSSIBLE REGULATIONS FOR “REFRIGERATED” MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, July 17—USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service is extending through Oct. 11 the period for public comments on how best to propose new regulations to better ensure the safety of certain refrigerated meat and poultry products.

These products include ready-to-eat, uncured, perishable meat and poultry items such as soups, sauces, pastas, salads and entrees found in refrigerated cases in delicatessens and grocery stores. The products are packaged in a variety of sealed containers designed to retard growth of spoilage microorganisms and thus extend the refrigerated shelf-life of the product. They bear statements such as “perishable” or “keep refrigerated.”

“We are extending the comment period because of the interest in these products,” said Dr. Lester M. Crawford, Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service. “We are asking for public comments, information, scientific data, and recommendations, to help determine what additional regulations are necessary for these products.”

The original comment period ended July 13.

An increasing number of the new refrigerated products are on the market, and many public health officials believe additional regulations may be necessary, according to Crawford.

Commenters should address both the microbiological safety and wholesomeness of such products, as well as what regulations should be developed for their processing, packaging, labeling, distribution or storage.

FSIS is also reviewing advice and recommendations made by the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods on ways to better ensure the microbiological safety of these products.

Comments should be sent to the Policy Office, Attention: Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-S, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to ensuring that the U.S. meat and poultry supply is safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

#



## **USDA TO REVISE IMPORTED PORK ASSESSMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

WASHINGTON, July 17—Effective July 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will revise the numbers used to identify imported pork assessed under the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985. The revision reflects recent changes made by the U.S. Customs Service, which collects the assessments.

Since Jan. 1, 1989, when USDA revised its imported pork assessment identification numbers to correspond with revisions in the new Harmonized Tariff System (HTS), the customs service has deleted seven and added 14 new HTS numbers identifying imported pork. Regulations under the order implementing the act contain USDA's HTS numbers schedule, and the seven deletions and 14 additions are being made to those regulations.

Authorized by the 1985 act, the assessments are added to those collected on domestic sales of hogs to fund promotion and research programs as authorized by the act for the pork industry. The National Pork Board, created under the act, receives the assessments.

Notice of the revision will appear as an interim final rule in the July 19 Federal Register. Comments, postmarked or courier-dated no later than Aug. 20, should be sent in duplicate to the Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2624-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

## **FEDERAL TASK FORCE ON SPOTTED OWL TO MEET WITH NORTHWEST REGIONAL LEADERS**

WASHINGTON, July 18—The Interagency Task Force on the Spotted Owl, led by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment James Moseley, will travel to Washington, Oregon and California to gather first-hand information on regional concerns related to the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as an endangered species.

Accompanying Moseley will be senior-level officials from federal agencies which make up the task force: the U.S. Department of

Agriculture, the Department of Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The task force will inspect forests, confer with state governors and other elected officials, and meet with environmental, conservation and timber groups. It will hold meetings in Olympia, Wash., on July 19; in Salem, Ore., on July 20; in Medford, Ore., on July 21; in Redding, Calif., on July 22 and 23; and in Sacramento, Calif., also on July 23.

The Interagency Task Force was formed on June 26 in response to the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The task force is charged with devising a forest management plan for the USDA's Forest Service for fiscal year 1991, and will submit its report in September.

Locations and time of press availabilities will be announced in the states where they will take place.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

#

## **HONG KONG ELIGIBLE FOR MORE TABLE EGGS UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, July 19—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 4 million dozen U.S. table eggs to Hong Kong under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of U.S. table eggs will be made to buyers in Hong Kong through normal commercial channels at competitive prices. The export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses in the form of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Hong Kong market.

Today's allocation, added to the 10,180 dozen table eggs remaining under the previous allocation, brings the total quantity of available table eggs to Hong Kong to 4,010,180 dozen.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Mark Rowse, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, July 19—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| White.....             | 40.0 |
| Extra-light Amber..... | 37.0 |
| Light Amber.....       | 36.0 |
| Amber.....             | 35.0 |
| Nontable.....          | 33.0 |

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30-5:30 pm EST

#

